

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 2005, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Miller, Smisek, Smith, Strehler, and Vice-Chairperson Stadler.

Absent: Chairperson Wang.

Also Present: Cultural Services Administrator Myers,
Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland,
Cultural Services Consultant Powers, and
Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson.

Due to the absence of Chairperson Wang, Vice-Chairperson Stadler led the meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Miller moved to grant Chairperson Wang an excused absence for the November 21, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Armstrong, moved to grant Commissioner Strehler an excused absence for the September 19, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Wang).

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Smith moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Stadler so ordered (absent Chairperson Wang).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Strehler moved for the approval of the September 19, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by

Commissioner Armstrong and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Chairperson Wang).

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. SCHEDULE FOR 2006-07 NONPROFIT ARTS GRANTS

Cultural Services Administrator Myers reported that notices would be mailed out to non-profit arts organizations in early February 2006 and suggested that the Grants Committee meet early next year to discuss recommendations by the January 2006 meeting. He welcomed Commissioners to provide any suggestions for change or amendment to the program.

Commissioner Miller indicated that she liked the program as it is and Vice-Chairperson Stadler stated that the Grants Committee has done an excellent job. Commissioner Miller noted that she would not be able to continue on the Grants Committee because her term as Commissioner will end in January 2006. The selection of a replacement Grants Committee member was postponed to the January 2006 Commission meeting.

6B. RECENT PRESS COVERAGE ON CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION PROGRAMS

Cultural Services Administrator Myers noted that recent articles reported in the local press were attached to the agenda material. Press coverage included a November 11, 2005 Daily Breeze article on the opening performance of "Pirates of Penzance", an October 14, 2005 Daily Breeze article discussing the reopening of the Torrance Art Museum, October 13, 2005 Easy Reader and Beach Reporter articles on opening exhibits by artists De Wain Valentine and Nancy Braver, and November 4, 2005 Daily Breeze and November 20, 2005 Easy Reader articles about the SOLA Contemporary Dance Festival. He expressed his appreciation to the Commission and Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation for their support and presence at the events.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

No report.

7B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

Commissioner Smith reported that she sent copies of the Pasadena Cultural Plan to Commissioners Miller and Smisek and that the committee would meet to discuss it.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers announced that staff from the Community Development Department would give a presentation on the General Plan update at the December 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting.

7C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson thanked Commissioners for their support and reported that the Torrance Art Museum has had 897 visitors since its opening. She stated that there have been three Stories in Art programs with over 30 students in each event and another scheduled for December 2, 2005. She reported that last week there was a successful conversation with Henry Hopkins and De Wain Valentine in the museum with approximately 37 participants. She expressed appreciation for the wonderful core of museum volunteers, noting that they were still accepting applications. She stated that preparations were underway for the next exhibition beginning in mid-January 2006.

In response to Commissioner Strehler's inquiry, she stated that the next exhibition would be a thematic exhibition on plein air painting and would feature pictures by William Lees Judson. She advised that the large gallery would have about 20 artists and that the South Bay focus gallery would feature local artist Steve Shriver.

Responding to Commissioner Armstrong's inquiry, she explained that plein air was artwork produced in the air, on-site and within the landscape.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers provided information regarding the next Works in Progress that will present an epic drama of the key events noted in the U.S. Government's The 9/11 Commission Report. He reported that he is currently looking for Islamic actors to perform in the four segments.

Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland reported on recent events that include the November 4-5, 2005 SOLA Contemporary Dance Festival and the sold out November 17, 2005 Showcase of dance classes. He stated that "Pirates of Penzance" was a huge success, with all ten shows sold out. He thanked the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation for their support of the Torrance Theater Company. He announced upcoming programs that include the Torrance Civic Chorale on December 10-11, 2005 and the Star Light production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on December 16-17, 2005 in the Armstrong Theatre.

10. ORALS

Commissioner Strehler shared information about her September 2005 trip to England and Ireland and visits to the National Arts Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, and Lever collection. She also enjoyed the Pepper Tree show in Los Olivos, the Torrance Art Museum opening, the November 17, 2005 De Wain Valentine and Henry Hopkins discussion, and "Pirates of Penzance."

Commissioner Armstrong stated that she enjoyed the November 19, 2005 Monica Mancini Quartet and the Shelly Berg jazz performance.

Commissioner Miller stated that she enjoyed the Torrance Art Museum opening, the Vienna Choir Boys, and Shelly Berg jazz concert. She discussed the October 28, 2005 Los Angeles County Arts Commission Forum and a letter she received from a keynote speaker, Los Angeles County Arts Commissioner and local artist Phoebe Beasley. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the Torrance Civic Chorale's performance on December 10-11, 2005.

Commissioner Smisek stated that it was interesting to talk to Commissioners from other cities at the Forum. She discussed Foundation programming, noting that the Vienna Choir Boys performance sold out. She stated that she enjoyed "Pirates of Penzance" and encouraged Commissioners to attend the mariachi performance in December 2005.

Commissioner Smith stated that she enjoyed opening night of "Pirates of Penzance" and is looking forward to the mariachi performance and the new series of American Perspectives lectures starting in January 2006 with B.D. Wong.

Vice-Chairperson Stadler stated that she enjoyed attending the opening of the Torrance Art Museum as well as the Monica Mancini and Shelly Berg performances. She invited Commissioners to attend her school choir's performance at Hermosa Beach Playhouse on December 15, 2005 and a concert at the Rolling Hills United Methodist Church on December 18, 2005.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Ernie Thom who was an important contributor to the ceramics program.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:46 p.m., Commissioner Miller, with a second by Commissioner Smith, moved to adjourn the meeting, in memory of Ernie Thom, to Monday, December 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Submitted December 19, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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